

Introduction

This brochure provides a status update on work related to the *Richmond Highway-Telegraph Road Connector Environmental Assessment*. The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is conducting the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Connector and administering project development through the Department of Army (DoA) Defense Access Road Program. The US Army Corps Of Engineers (COE), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and Fairfax County are assisting in the study and design development.

February Public Information Meeting

The first public information meeting for the project was held in February 2005. A summary of that meeting is available at the project website @

www.epl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/active_projects.htm

At the February meeting, county Supervisors Gerry Hyland and Dana Kauffman announced their intent to create a Citizen's Task Force for the project.

Please plan on attending the next Public Information Meeting on October 24th at the South County Government Center at 8350 Richmond Highway (Route 1). See Page 4 of the newsletter for more details.

Mount Vernon Highway Intersection at Route 1



Citizens Task Force

The first meeting of the Citizens' Task Force was held in June 2005. The Task Force was informed of ongoing project activities. At the August 2005 meeting, the Task Force was briefed on options for the Route 1/Old Mill Road/Mount Vernon Highway intersection, traffic studies, and other on-going coordination efforts.

Traffic Studies

A report was prepared for the project which provides year 2010 and 2030 traffic forecasts and traffic operational analysis for the proposed connector road. The analysis incorporates planned transportation improvements from the Region's *Constrained Long Range Regional Transportation Plan*. The analysis also considers the construction of the U.S. Army Museum and resulting changes in traffic conditions.

Woodlawn Entrance / Old Mill Road-Richmond Highway-Mount Vernon Highway Intersection

Project staff have met with representatives of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (owner of Woodlawn Plantation) to discuss options for the Woodlawn Plantation entrance and Route 1/Old Mill/Mount Vernon Highway intersection. Overall, the options considered present a new Woodlawn entrance that reflects the historic, pastoral character of Woodlawn Plantation. Options for the new intersection incorporate context sensitive solutions for improved pedestrian and bicycle access.

Existing Conditions and Alternatives Development

Information on the existing conditions of the natural and built environment in the study area has been collected for the development of the Environmental Assessment (EA). The data was collected from various sources including field surveys by project team biologists, land

surveys, and geographic information system (GIS) data previously compiled by Fairfax County and Fort Belvoir.

Connector Road alternatives are being evaluated from previous studies and stakeholder input. One alternative is expected to be carried forward through the EA process, for further engineering analysis and cost estimates.

Section 106 Consultation Process

FHWA has commenced the Section 106 Consultation process for this project, in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The Act requires federal agencies to "take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties." FHWA determined that the proposed undertaking could have an adverse affect upon properties that are listed or are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Woodlawn Plantation is a National Historic Landmark, the highest designation and the NRHP-eligible Woodlawn Historic District has multiple preservation-related designations. The initial meeting of the consulting parties was held September 12, 2005 at Woodlawn Plantation. Subsequent sessions with appropriate consulting parties are expected, with an objective of completing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State Historic Preservation Officer, National Trust, the Army and transportation agencies. The MOA would address land requirements for the new connector road.

Woodlawn Plantation



Hold the Date !

October Public Information Meeting

When: October 24, 2005, 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Where: South County Government Center

8350 Richmond Highway, Room 221

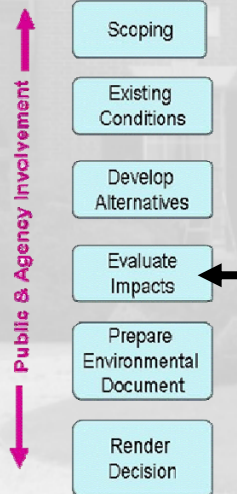
Alexandria, VA

Key Issues to be Discussed:

- Project Background and Update (since the February Public Meeting)
- Options for the Route 1/Old Mill Road/Mount Vernon Highway Intersection
- Entrance Options for Woodlawn Plantation
- Traffic Data
- Review of Connector Road Alternatives
- Public Comment and Input

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

The National Environmental Policy Act directs this study. Developing the Environmental Assessment (EA) involves continuous public and agency involvement, as outlined in this graphic. The project team has initiated the step of evaluating the impacts of the proposed connector road.



Next Steps

- Environmental Assessment and Public Information Meeting Early 2006

Comments or Questions?

Please email Jack Van Dop, at the Federal Highway Administration: jack.vandop@fhwa.dot.gov

Federal Highway Administration
Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division
Attention: Jack Van Dop
21400 Ridgeway Circle
Sterling, VA 20166

Richmond Highway (Route 1)/Telegraph Road Connector Environmental Assessment

Newsletter

October 2005

October Public Information Meeting Announcement

When: Monday, October 24, 2005,

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Where: South County Government Center,

8350 Richmond Highway, Room 221

Alexandria, VA

